

Injury Prevention Network Region IX Newsletter

Winter 2002 Number 8

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*Don't forget to
send your
updates for the
Spring 2003
newsletter!*

ANNOUNCEMENT: Region IX Newsletter Web Archive

The Injury Prevention Network Region IX Newsletter is now available on the Web! Visit www.preventioninstitute.org/NHTSAnl.html for current and past issues.

UPDATES: CALIFORNIA

California EMS News

The Third EMS Vision Conference, hosted by the state EMS Authority, was held in San Francisco on December 5 and 6. This conference, titled "Implementing the Vision," was the third conference since we began the EMS Vision process in 1998. The focus was on finalizing and implementing all of the 60 Vision objectives and 90 NHTSA (Assessment of EMS in California) objectives. One of the six committees, "Prevention and Public Education," dealt with injury and illness prevention and public education issues. One of the objectives of this committee was to develop a comprehensive website that includes a program registry, data sources, funding sources, links to many more programs, and a "how-to" guide. This website is now up and running (or at least about 90% running), and can be found at www.emsa.ca.gov/emsddivision/prevention.asp. It is planned that all of the Vision committees will continue to exist and thrive as the objectives are implemented and monitored.

The fifth annual EMS for Children conference, hosted by the EMS Authority, was held in San Diego on November 7 and 8. Workshop topics covered a broad range of subjects, including bio-terrorism preparedness, SIDS and ALTE, child abuse injuries, transport of children, tattoos and body piercing, adolescent risk-taking, alternative medicine, pain management, injury prevention, and pediatric seizure management.

The 2002 Statewide Medical and Health Disaster Exercise was held November 14. At this conference, the EMS Authority continued to expand the number of participants to incorporate hospitals and other healthcare providers (including long-term care facilities and clinics), pre-hospital care providers, auxiliary communication networks, blood banks, and local and regional government agencies. The 2001 exercise dealt with a hazardous materials release requiring decontamination and sheltering in place. In keeping with the previous theme of "man-made"

disasters and in addressing the current hazards and threats that confront emergency managers and the healthcare community, the Exercise Planning Committee designed this year's scenario around a radiological event and exercise. The 2001 exercise introduced "sheltering-in-place." This year's exercise incorporated sheltering again to reinforce the critical policy decisions and procedures involved in its implementation. In addition, this year's scenario included the treatment of radiologically "contaminated" patients requiring decontamination to emphasize the learning principles from previous exercises.

A variety of EMS-related legislation has been passed or is still under consideration; for a partial list, visit www.emsa.ca.gov/Legislation/leg401.asp.

California is requesting nearly 50,000 doses of the smallpox vaccine to inoculate health care teams statewide in preparation for a potential bio-terrorist attack, according to plans submitted to the federal government. Find out more at www.sacbee.com/content/news/medical/story/5547817p-6526364c.html.

UC Berkeley Traffic Safety Center Newsletter

The second issue of the UC Berkeley Traffic Safety Center Newsletter, which focuses on occupant protection, is now available at www.tsc.berkeley.edu/Newsletter/Dec02/frontpage.html.

UPDATES: HAWAII

MELE KALIKIMAKA to all our Region IX friends!

He's Done It Again!!

Standing on the courtyard stage at Honolulu Hale, smiling at his family, friends, and colleagues, the Department of Emergency Services' Ian Santee couldn't imagine what was to come. A finalist in the Mayor's Outstanding Employees Program, Ian thought his youth and few years of service in the field would not work in his favor. Moments later, Hawaii's MICT of the Year became the City and County of Honolulu's Employee of the Year. Ever modest, Ian looked stunned as the crowd erupted in applause even before his name was announced.

"I feel quite honored to receive this award," said Ian. "It truly reflects on the entire Emergency Medical Services Division and the quality and caliber of the work we all do."

Mayor Jeremy Harris commended Ian for his many accomplishments, both on and off the job, and thanked him for his dedication to fulfilling the enormous responsibility of providing for the health, safety, and numerous basic daily needs of the people in our island community. Mayor Harris also recognized Ian's injury prevention efforts and wished him well on the launching of his EMS Explorers Program.

Bio-Terrorism Preparedness

State Emergency Medical Services and Injury Prevention (EMSIP) is collaborating with the Hawaii State Department of Health to plan, develop, and implement an EMS surveillance reporting system utilizing computerized ambulance dispatch data. EMSIP is also planning and developing a statewide EMS bio-terrorism emergency preparedness and response plan.

News from around the Islands

Kauai County

AMR-Kauai Manager Zach Octavio reports that his dedicated Kauai crew, in addition to their everyday injury prevention efforts, assisted KPD with their pre-holiday roadside and car seat checks. As usual, Medic 21 continues to average one car seat checkup per day. Booster seats are also starting to arrive for the upcoming “Boost America” campaign. In another arena, Zach served as the Kauai Pop Warner football “standby” since the fall, making it 17 consecutive seasons of volunteering his time and expertise.

Moana Taa, KKIPC coordinator, and Jovita Sagadraca, AMR IP Coordinator, attended a two-day seminar in San Antonio, TX for “Shattered Dreams,” a program about drinking and driving directed at high school students. The program, now being planned to be offered on Kauai, simulates a motor vehicle crash. It is a tremendous undertaking and involves all emergency and post-emergency response systems, including Wilcox Hospital, KPD, KFD, AMR, Kauai Mortuary, and Kauai Towing. Kauai Rural Health and KIPC are sponsoring “Shattered Dreams.”

Lastly, Zach reports that another Andy the Ambulance is making its way to Kauai. Andy is a popular and highly effective teaching tool already in use on Oahu. Danny Sagadraca, already filling his calendar with appointments for demonstrations, can’t wait to get his hands on it!

Maui County

Maui’s keiki are safer, thanks to the efforts of Maui’s injury prevention team and their focus on Child Passenger Safety (CPS). AMR-Maui’s Curt Morimoto reports that a number of car seat checkups took place between September and December, with more scheduled as the New Year begins. Lt. Charles Hirata of MPD conducted a CPS Update class for Maui technicians and 17 MFD recruits were trained as technicians back in October.

AMR-Maui is currently seeking a Paramedic-MICT to be its Injury Prevention Coordinator (IPC). The IPC will dedicate eight hours per week towards injury prevention efforts in this newly created position.

Hawaii County (The Big Island)

Hawaii County Fire Department EMS Battalion Chief Scotty Paiva and his dedicated team are currently being trained in the proper use of ambulance child transport seats. Recognizing the need for reducing ill or injured children’s risk of injury during EMS transports, Scotty applied for and was awarded an EMSC mini-grant toward the purchase and use of child transport seats in all Hawaii County ambulances. Upon further research, it was determined that additional funding

was needed and efforts were undertaken to secure these funds through other grants. A Department of Transportation grant that was used to purchase the seats was recently awarded. The original EMSC award is being used for training and served to stimulate and motivate Scotty to seek the additional funds needed to complete his project.

City and County of Honolulu (Oahu)

After the attacks of September 11, 2001, Oahu's first responders showed their patriotism and support for their New York and Washington, D.C. colleagues by participating in a spirited halftime show at a UH Warriors game. This year, at the one-year anniversary of the tragedy, EMS, Police, and Fire personnel once again expressed their support by lending their voices to a special video recording of "Give Aloha" at Sunset on the Beach, spearheaded by local entertainer Jesse Rivera. Copies of the video were sent as a gift to New York City in commemoration of the September 11 terrorist attacks.

Community Injury Prevention Response Newsletter

The Hawaii EMSC program publishes a quarterly injury prevention newsletter for local EMS professionals and other first responders. The newsletter highlights EMS injury prevention activities and other injury-related information. To download a PDF version of past issues of "Community Injury Prevention Response," visit www.state.hi.us/doh/resource/ems/index.html.

UPDATES: NEVADA

Nevada Electronic Emergency Medical Services: Data System (NEEDS)

October 15, 2002 begins a new era in pre-hospital data collection in the State of Nevada. Since the inception of the Nevada Office of Emergency Medical Services in 1972-73, data concerning pre-hospital incidents has had to be collected via a hand method, making use of what is known in the business as "bubble sheets." During the past year, a pilot program has been conducted throughout the state, making use of an electronic data collection system.

The pilot project, started in January 2002, makes use of Personal Digital Assistant (PDA) technology, computer desktop application, and a web-based data repository developed by Med-Media, Inc., of Harrisburg, PA. The pilot project was a joint effort of public and private agencies. These agencies included the University of Nevada School of Medicine's Office of Rural Health, the Nevada State Health Division's Emergency Medical Services office, Med-Media, Inc., and ten rural ambulance agencies.

Using the new technology, emergency medical service providers are able to begin collecting incident data, patient condition, and treatment information at the scene making use of electronic software loaded on the Personal Digital Assistant. This information is beamed to a printer at the hospital where the patient is delivered, and electronically transferred to a desktop computer located at the agencies' home station at the conclusion of the call. The service providers review and complete the detailed pre-hospital care report. This report is then uploaded to a web-based server where the information is stored and compiled along with information from other agencies.

Access to the data may be obtained via Internet connection and is controlled using passwords issued by the State Health Division. As of October 1, 2002, over five thousand individual reports had been uploaded to the server. Fergus Laughridge, Emergency Medical Services Supervisor and the NEEDS program manager, expressed satisfaction with the progress of the program and said the pilot project exceeded the most “optimistic expectations of his office.” The detail available on each report far exceeded the old labor-intensive bubble sheet method. Under this new system, information is available virtually instantaneously, as opposed to the old system, which often required months from the incident to data access.

The success of the pilot program has allowed Nevada to expand the program to all permitted emergency medical services and fire agencies in the state. Utilizing information gained from the pilot project, a “data dictionary” has been created and includes all of National Highway and Traffic Safety Administration’s data elements. In addition to this, the system reports the information requested by Trauma Registry and Crash Outcome Data Elements. The program has been taken one step further and all data elements have been modified to take into consideration new Nevada-specific applications. NEEDS manager Fergus Laughridge indicates that a large amount of the program’s success is based on the Web-based repository developed by Med-Media, Inc. The program developed by Med-Media allows agencies to use a variety of different data collection software to export data to the repository site. The Med-Media system also allows agencies collecting the same data elements to upload critical information even when exactly the same software has not been used. The repository, identified by the initials WEB-CUR, can collect the aforementioned data and then report it back to the individual agencies and the State Emergency Medical Services office in a format useable for report and development purposes.

Even though this system is barely out of the pilot stage, the potential for accurate data-based planning is obvious. The next months of continued collection and massaging by the agencies and the State’s Emergency Medical Services office are expected to produce a product that will ultimately result in better patient care.

NATIONAL NEWS OF INTEREST

National Impaired Driving Prevention Efforts

On December 18, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) released the State Alcohol Related Fatality Rates Report, documenting alcohol-related traffic fatalities from 1982 to 2001 for every state. NHTSA also launched a national campaign, ‘You Drink & Drive. You Lose,’ in collaboration with the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), AAA, and state and local law enforcement agencies. To view the full press release, visit:

www.nhtsa.dot.gov/nhtsa/announce/press/pressdisplay.cfm?year=2002&filename=pr76-02.html.

Grants to Increase Seat Belt Use

As part of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta announced on November 22 that 34 states, the District of

Columbia, and Puerto Rico would share \$50.47 million in incentive grants for increasing seat belt use. California, one of the 34 states, will receive approximately \$16.5 million. The act provides more than \$1.2 billion in incentive grants to increase seat belt use and prevent drunk driving. For the full press release, visit:

www.nhtsa.dot.gov/nhtsa/announce/press/pressdisplay.cfm?year=2002&filename=pr71-02.html.

Improving Child Passenger Safety

NHTSA recently announced a ruling that requires child safety seats to be rated on ease of use. The agency is also launching two pilot testing programs to assess the effectiveness of child safety seats in crashes and to determine how well new vehicles protect children. For the full press release, visit:

www.nhtsa.dot.gov/nhtsa/announce/press/pressdisplay.cfm?year=2002&filename=pr67-02.html.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

Northern California Society for Public Health Education (NCSOPHE) Annual Conference

Date: January 24, 2003

Location: Holiday Inn, Concord, CA

For more information, contact:

Blanca Campos

14 Orinda Circle

Pittsburg, CA 94565

Phone: 925-427-2316

Web: www.ncsophe.org/newandnow.htm

2nd Annual New Partners for Smart Growth Conference

Date: January 30-February 1, 2003

Location: Sheraton New Orleans Hotel, New Orleans, LA

For more information, contact:

Michele Kelso, Program Manager

Local Government Commission

1414 K Street, Suite 600

Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: 916-448-1198

E-mail: mkelso@lgc.org

Web: www.lgc.org

Mark Bernhard, Senior Conference Planner

The Pennsylvania State University

225 The Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel

University Park, PA 16802-7005

Phone: 814-863-5100

E-mail: ConferenceInfo1@outreach.psu.edu

Web: www.outreach.psu.edu/C&I/SmartGrowth

Ontario Injury Prevention Conference (OIPC) 2003

Date: February 23-25, 2003

Location: Courtyard Marriott Hotel, Toronto, Ontario

For more information, contact:

Sandra Mills, SMARTRISK

Phone: 416-596-2705

E-mail: OIPC2003@smartrisk.ca

Web: www.smartrisk.ca/OIPC2003

**10th Annual International Consumer Product Health and Safety Organization (ICPHSO)
Meeting and Training Symposium**

Date: February 25-28, 2003

Location: The Rosen Centre Hotel, Orlando, FL

For more information, contact:

International Consumer Product Health Safety Organization

P.O. Box 1785

Germantown, MD 20875-1785

Phone: 301-601-3240

Fax: 301-601-3543

E-mail: icphso@aol.com

Web: www.icphso.org/annual.cfm

Lifesavers 21 National Conference on Highway Safety Priorities

Date: March 9-11, 2003

Location: Hyatt Regency, Chicago, IL

For more information, contact:

Lifesavers Conference Inc.

P.O. Box 30045

Alexandria, VA 22310

Phone: 703-922-7944

Fax: 703-922-7780

Web: www.lifesaversconference.org

Safety in Numbers: Working Together from Research into Practice

Date: April 28-29, 2003

Location: Hyatt Regency Hotel, Atlanta, GA

For more information, contact:

Trevia Pereira

National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, CDC

4770 Buford Highway NE, MS/K-65

Atlanta, GA 30341-3724

Phone: 770-488-4665

Fax: 770-488-1667

E-mail: TPereira@cdc.gov or OHCINFO@cdc.gov

Web: www.cdc.gov/ncipc/conference/default.htm